Judges 4:1-7

The judgeship of Deborah

4:1The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD,
after Ehud died.

4:2So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan,
who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who
lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim.

4:3Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help, for he had nine
hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly
twenty years.

4:4At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging
Israel.

4:5She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and
Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to
her for judgment.

4:6She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in
Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands
you, 'Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand from the
tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun.

4:7I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by
the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him
into your hand.'"

Psalm 123

Our eyes look to God

123:1To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

123:2As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the
eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the
LORD our God, until he has mercy upon us.

123:3Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

123:4Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Be alert for the day of the Lord

5:1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.

5:2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

5:3When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

5:4But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;

5:5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

5:6So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober,

5:7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

5:8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

5:9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

5:10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

5:11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

Slaves entrusted with talents

25:14"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

25:15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once

25:16the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them, and made five more talents.

25:17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

25:18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

25:19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

25:20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

25:21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

25:23His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter,

25:25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

25:26But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter?

25:27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

25:28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

25:29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

25:30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"